

## ***Oregon Joins Others for Energy Efficiency Call to Action Plan***

**Salem, OR** –Today Governor Ted Kulongoski joined others around the nation in support of a National Action Plan for energy efficiency and highlighted on-going and future activities in Oregon.

Conservation efforts in Oregon for the state's two largest electric utilities are funded by a three percent public purpose charge on retail electric bills of Portland General Electric and PacifiCorp customers. The programs are run by the Energy Trust of Oregon, a nonprofit organization based in Portland.

In 2005, the Energy Trust programs saved an estimated 39 average megawatts (28,740 homes). That does not include savings from the school conservation programs, low-income housing weatherization, or state and federal conservation programs in Oregon.

A recent assessment by the Energy Trust of Oregon estimates PGE and PacifiCorp could cost-effectively reduce the amount of the energy they consume by 12 to 15% by 2012. The analysis identified residential opportunities such as weatherization to heat pumps, commercial opportunities but noted the greatest potential for industrial electronics, wood, and paper industries.

The savings of 360 average megawatts is enough energy to meet the yearly energy needs of 262,800 Oregon households.

The Oregon Public Utility Commission has draft legislation to extend the public purpose funding law to 2022 and give the PUC authority to increase the charge for activities related to conservation and renewable resources. The change would not apply to other public purposes and would be limited to an increase or decrease of no more than 1% of revenues.

PacifiCorp is beginning work on its system wide Demand Side Management and energy efficiency opportunities within its six state service areas, which Oregon's PUC recommended.

The Oregon Department of Energy is proposing legislation to expand the Business Energy Tax Credit program to builders of High Performance Homes, which combine energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The Department coordinates the Energy Efficiency Interagency Team to help state agencies meet the Governor's goal of 20 percent energy savings by 2015.

#### Benefits of Energy Efficiency

- Lower energy bills, and greater customer satisfaction;
- Lower cost that supplying generation from new power plants;
- Quick to deploy;
- Significant energy savings;
- Environmental benefits;
- Economic development;

Today's announcement coincides with the release in San Francisco of a National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions (NARUC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and United States Department of Energy (USDOE). The plan was developed by a leadership group of utility regulators, utility executives and energy users.